

The Southeast News

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER 1963

WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

The beauty of Christmas touches the eye. The red holly berries sparkle against their shiny green background. The darkness of night is transformed by gaily colored lights outlining the familiar shape of the Christmas tree. Bright stars cast their glow from lofty perches atop tall trees and spires. In the window a candle burns — a symbol of warmth and hospitality.

The beauty of Christmas touches the ear. Gay carols bring cheer to the face and a lilt to the step. Lovely hymns and anthems move upon the imagination and stir the mind. The music of no other season captivates the spirit in quite the same way.

The beauty of Christmas also touches the heart. For Christmas is all about love . . . the love of God for man . . . the love of man for God . . . the love of man for man.

"LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING,
JOY OF HEAVEN TO EARTH COME DOWN."

"JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME!
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING;
LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM,
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING!"

At this Christmas Season we pray that Christ may be in your heart and in your living. May your Christmas be joyful and your New Year blessed by God.

W. Pressley Ingram
Clyde C. Flannery
W. J. Strickland

Lois D. Harry
Emilie F. Pitcock
Wilmer L. McCord

James H. Lightbourne, Jr.

300th Anniversary Of Indian Bible Printing

Printing the Indian Bible was completed in the year 1663, three hundred years ago. No English Bible was published during the Colonial period. Rev. John Eliot, who has often been called the Apostle to the Indians, translated the Bible into the Algonquin Indian language. He had patiently mastered by sound, there being no writing or printing from which to study. His Indian assistants helped him as they became increasingly familiar with English.

In all the English colonies the first and only printing press was in Cambridge, Mass., closely associated with Harvard College. Since Eliot's church was seven miles away in Roxbury the distance between the two places presented problems for proof-reading as the pages were set in type. In addition to his own repeated trips back and forth, he probably employed an Indian runner.

The press was founded in 1638. An expert printer, Marmaduke Johnson, came from England to advance this special project. Also another printing press and more type were provided. Nevertheless the work was very slow, requiring three years for the press work. Four pages were printed at each impression.

The Bible had over one thousand pages. The type was redistributed and reset over and over again, each letter picked out separately and placed in the form. The handle which lowered the press to obtain an imprint had to be moved half a million times.

As carefully as the work had been laid out, there were delays which slowed the operation. Nevertheless, it was anticipated that it would require three years, and in just three years it did come to an end.

How many Indians were taught to read would be difficult to estimate. Now, the Indian Bible is a famous early New England book known chiefly to collectors who have prized it among the very rare books of early America. The Congregational Library copy which is frequently exhibited has been by far the item of greatest interest to groups of young people and others who have visited the library. The celebration of the three centuries of its existence represents both the teaching of American history and a portion of New England Congregationalism in the days of its founders.

West Berlin Pastor Interviewed During Visit To United Churches In Nashville

A West Berlin pastor, in an interview here, contrasted the strong faith of the "confessing" church during Hitler's era with the general lack of church interest in Germany today.

"We are living in a time of wealth and satisfaction," the Rev. Dietrich Wewerke said. "Often the church is a kind of religious decoration for one's life.

"People think of the church as an institution. It's used when needed (at confirmations, weddings and burials). But in the meantime, it doesn't serve much purpose in the eyes of many."

The Rev. Mr. Wewerke and the Rev. Martin Fabritz of Quelle were in Nashville recently as part of a month's tour of this country. The visit was sponsored by the United Church of Christ.

They visited in the homes of the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery of Brookmeade United Church and the Rev. Eugene Bickel of First Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Rev. Mr. Wewerke said that when Hitler came to power the Nazis tried to unite all Protestants in one church, based half on Christian and half on Nazi ideology.

The Church of the Union, the major Protestant church at that time, was taken over on the national level by the Nazis, he said. This group became known as the German Christs, with emphasis on the German.

In opposition to this group, he said, a resistance group was formed under Martin Niemoeller. This group became known as the "confessing" church and included "the majority of the pastors" of the Church of the Union.

"The confessing church did a great deal," he said, "though not on a national basis as this was not possible.

"But privately they did a great deal. They made it possible for many to go into the underground — not only Jews but other persecuted persons also, and we had a lot of them.

"Also, they tried to keep the German Christs from being the only alternative. They made it possible to hear, not Nazi propaganda, but the word of God.

"The German Christs often preached Hitler as a new Christ for Germany. The confessing church said clearly this was heresy."

Asked why this group was not killed, he said it would have been "cleared out" if Hitler had had more time. He

said spies were "everywhere" and attended church services, but often didn't understand the sermons.

Sometimes, however, the pastors were sent to prisons, he said. And throughout the war they lived under pressure.

Asked about the Roman Catholic Church's role, he said:

"There was a lot of personal (individual) resistance. But most of the bishops didn't say a word in opposition in the beginning. They were more active in opposition as the war neared its end."

Despite the fact that "church interest is going down generally, in Germany today," he said the church exerts great influence on political life.

He referred to a statement made by the Evangelical Church of Germany on the right use of property and the worker's relation to property. He said this had brought reactions in parliament, from unions, and across the nation.

The Rev. Mr. Wewerke has studied in Goettingen, Hiedelberg, and Bonn.

Christmas Fund For Veterans Of The Cross

This is the sixty-second year of the Christmas Fund. There is nothing quite like it. This year is its greatest because its appeal goes to all the churches of the United Church of Christ and its services will be extended to the Veterans of the Cross of both communions. This is to be done through the Congregational Board of Ministerial Relief of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Christmas Fund is the means of caring for retired ministers and their wives and for the widows of these men. Years on small salaries, plus the inroads of inflation, have made many pensions inadequate. When the times of special need and crisis come, the Christmas Fund goes into action.

Last year 4,707 individual gifts and 1,870 church gifts brought a total of \$175,526.75. Christmas checks plus a second check in March, as well as all the services of the Emergency Fund, have been the result.

You and your church will want to participate. Make checks payable to THE CHRISTMAS FUND and send to: Board of Ministerial Relief, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y., 10010.

"The Peculiar Ones" Set 1964 Youth Week Theme

The study theme for Youth Week 1964, "The Peculiar Ones", was selected by a special committee of the National Council of Churches, in order to raise the issues, conflicts and dilemmas facing young persons as they consider the meaning and implications of their unique role as Christians called by God to serve in the midst of contemporary society. The first Sunday of Youth Week, January 26, should be set aside to give youth in each church the opportunity to interpret their special concerns to the whole church. The second Sunday, February 2, should include a community observance in which youth and adults from all churches will come together for mutual worship and discussion.

Throughout the year churches should be involved in a renewed effort toward the reconstruction of the church as the community of God's particular people. A packet containing program materials and poster may be ordered (\$1.00) from the Office of P & D, National Council of Churches, P. O. Box 301, Madison Square Station, N. Y. 10, N. Y.

A TIMELY PRAYER

Our Father, we come before you during this period of crisis to ask for your blessing and guidance. We realize that President Kennedy is now with you; but we beseech you, Father, to be with Mrs. Kennedy and the rest of the President's family in their hour of grief. We also ask you to grant a speedy recovery to the Governor of Texas. Now, Father, we pray you to be with President Johnson and the other leaders of this great country. Give them the knowledge and inspiration to continue the ideals for which President Kennedy gave his life.

Now comes the hardest task of all. We ask you, Father, to have mercy upon the assassin of our President, for he knew not what he did. Extend your blessing to the people of this country that we may truly become "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Amen.

(The above prayer was written by David Snavely, President of the Kentucky-Tennessee Pilgrim Fellowship, and delivered by him at the meeting held in Nashville, November 23, the day following President Kennedy's assassination).

Stewardship Council Promotes United Church Tours Scheduled For Next Year

Twenty-two lay members and pastors of churches from California to Massachusetts, have recently concluded a tour to Europe, the Near East, and Africa. United Church Tours have tak-

en 115 churchmen for person-to-person contact with mission work in Puerto Rico, the Southland, Colorado, Montana, Hawaii, and New Nations of the world in 1963.



Pictured is the 1963 New Nations Tour with Rev. Theodore S. Horvath (center), General Secretary of Information and Interpretation for the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ, leader of the tour. Mr. Herbert H. Hausler (right), the travel agent, and Dr. Nelson C. Dreier (left), Secretary of Tours for the Stewardship Council.

Dr. Dreier says, "Churchmen go on tours because they give opportunity to combine purposeful travel with sight-seeing. They meet and talk with people and leaders from near and far. They go in the company of fine Christian friends and see both home and world missions at work."

One tour member this year wrote when he returned that the tour made it possible to see and experience many times as much as a commercial tour because of the many personal contacts afforded and at a lower price.

An investment of \$195.00 will take you by bus or auto to the Southland in springtime. One tour originates in Chicago, led by Rev. Eugene Van Kranenburgh, Regional Secretary for the Central East. The tour from New York is led by Rev. Paul E. Shanabrook, North East Regional Secretary of the Stewardship Council.

Members of these groups visit race relations and home mission projects, social centers, rural and urban work, and our church-related colleges. There will be wonderful opportunity for seminars with top leaders on these and all

of our tours.

A trip to Puerto Rico in January, and Rocky Mountain Empire in July combine the scenic wonders of these areas and our church, educational, and medical work. The cost is only \$295.00. Transportation, overnight accommodations, and meals are included on all of our tours.

Two opportunities to travel abroad appear in the 1964 list. In April, one will go to Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, and return via Miami. It will visit mission work of the church and give background for the 1964 mission study theme on Spanish Americans. The cost is \$1,150.00.

A tour to Europe, at a cost of \$1,295.00, will leave in July, visiting religious, world service, and historically significant places from London and Copenhagen to Naples and Rome. An extension of this tour, for an additional \$550.00, will take the travelers to Athens, Beirut, Istanbul, Jerusalem, and return through Cairo and Madrid or Lisbon.

Delegates to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches at Frankfurt-am-Main, August 3-13, who register for this tour can attend their sessions and will be given an allowance from the tour price to assist in expenses.

The 1964 folder for United Church Tours is now available. To get yours write to: Dr. Nelson C. Dreier, United Church Tours, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19102.

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Superintendent's Corner

Christmas is almost here. For adults it will be here almost before they know it. For children it will take a little longer. But Christmas surely will come.

The signs of Christmas already are apparent in the commercial world—a world in which we all participate in one way or another. They soon will be apparent in the activities of the churches.

The sermon topics, the elements of the worship services, the hymns and the special music — all of these testify that the churches are making ready to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace and the King of Love, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a joyous season. This is a time of love — a time of giving and receiving — a time of kindness and mercy. Even for those who are not Christian, Christmas has become a special time of the year.

Yes, the churches are making ready to receive their King, the Babe of Bethlehem. Yet it is one of the ironies of our day and time that even as some of our churches are preparing to receive Jesus, they are also preparing to keep peoples out of their churches.

Does it not seem strange to you that churches will turn aside good people who truthfully believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and faithfully seek to serve Him because they are not the right color?

Why should a church believe that Jesus would want it to celebrate His birth when the church is unwilling to receive all who love Him and whom He loves? Isn't this one of the things that Christmas is all about — the true meaning of Christian Love?

Rev. Guy H. Veazey Recalls The Old Christian Church

Quite a few of us senior citizens have very fond sacred memories of the old Christian Church as we knew it immediately after the turn of the century in the "horse and buggy" days, when most of our congregations were rural and had services once a month during the year, and then a "protracted meeting" in July or August.

A great many of our pastors were not college men, but they had faith and courage and "power from on high." They were soul-winners for Jesus. Church buildings were sacred places, and the saints really rejoiced together in those days.

We have come a long way in half a century. We have better educated ministers, better and bigger buildings and much better organization, but one often wonders if the spiritual side of the church has kept pace with the physical side.

About thirty years ago we merged with the Congregational Churches, now with a total membership of more than one million souls, and just recently completed the merger with the E & R Church, which we hope will be for the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth. We love the old Christian Church, but we love the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour better. Realizing that the church is facing the greatest challenge of any age, we pray for "power from on high" that we may be "workmen that needeth not to be ashamed."

* * * *

The Christian church has witnessed long

For Christ the Lord of glory;
Her faithful members never cease
To tell the Grand Old Story.
This church is what its members make,
It's ever been a blessing
To all who seek the Saviour's love,
Who come to him confessing.
There never was a church so small
That Jesus would not enter;
And every church what'er its size
Should place Him at the center.
In every church where Christ abides,
There's comfort, joy and pleasure;
For there amidst all strain and strife,
Is one eternal Treasure.

The church is not a place to go
To make some demonstration;
It is a place for all to find
The Saviour and salvation.
The church continues work today
As quietly as "leaven,"
The consummation of her task

HERE AND THERE

MINISTERS' CONVOCATION

The annual United Church Ministers' Convocation for the ministers of the white and Negro Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in the general southeast area was held December 2-4 at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Approximately 30 ministers were in attendance. Rev. Edward A. Powers, general secretary of the BHM Division of Christian Education, was the guest leader.

* * * *

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

The newly elected officers of the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Mt. Grove Church, Hanceville, Alabama, are:

President — Eddie Delorme
Vice-President — Wayne Armstrong
Secretary — Hazel Clark
Treasurer — Ruth Clark
Youth Advisor — Mrs. Mary Ransom

* * * *

DR. HAROLD WILKE

Dr. Harold Wilke, executive director of the Council for Church and Ministry of the United Church of Christ, was the featured speaker at the annual banquet of the Tennessee Society for Crippled Children and Adults, October 25. While in Chattanooga he met with the ministers of our fellowship from the area.

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SOCIAL ACTION INSTITUTE

A Southern Christian Social Action Institute on "Contemporary Crises for Christians" will be held at Lake Byrd Lodge, Avon Park, Florida, January 21-23. The cost for room and board and registration is \$17.00. Persons interested in attending should contact the convention office for details.

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Mr. G. E. Farmer

Mr. G. E. Farmer, Chattanooga, Tenn., moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, retired November 30 after 26 years of service with the Tennessee Valley Authority. A reception in his honor was held on November 22.

Will be revealed in heaven.

G. H. Veazey

(Rev. Guy H. Veazey is well known in our area as a minister serving in this convention and the Southern Convention.)

People . . .

Churches . . .

Events . . .

Rev. Carl J. Landes Takes Ohio Pastorate

Rev. Carl J. Landes has resigned his position as Community Consultant for the Board for Homeland Ministries to accept the work as pastor of the United Church of Christ at Franklin, Ohio, on or about November 15.

For the past 25 months Mr. Landes has served in the states of North Carolina and Virginia, seeking to make The United Church of Christ into one fellowship. He succeeded Miss Dorothy Hampton.

Mr. Landes came in August 1961 from Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, where he had taught for eight years as professor of Sociology and Bible. He also supplied the pulpits of several of our churches in that area.

The Landes have three children, two boys and one girl, and four grandchildren. Having been born into a Mennonite background, worked with Quakers, and ultimately coming into the Congregational Christian fellowship by choice, Mr. Landes stated his chief concerns in the present world situation to be (1) freedom and civil rights for all peoples, (2) world peace and brotherhood, and (3) the hunger of the world, physical and spiritual. "I believe, thoroughly," he said, "that the Gospel of the Living Christ is the answer to all these problems, and I have tried to dedicate my life to the fulfilling of God's Kingdom in this world, as preparation for the world to come."

Columbus United Church Seeking To Secure Bus

The Women's Society of the United Congregational Christian Church of Columbus, Georgia, is working to secure a bus by the Gold Stamp plan. We began the project November 7th and already have 600 points.

The Men's Group is having wonderful meetings, with breakfast (cooked by the men) on the first Sunday of the month.

We had a wonderful Homecoming Day. Everyone enjoyed the message, which was brought by our Superintendent, Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr.

Our Christmas program is showing great promise. Rev. W. Sanford Wood is the pastor of United Church, Columbus. Ruth Ward

Rev. And Mrs. N. A. Long Celebrate Golden Wedding

The Reverend and Mrs. N. A. Long celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, November 10, at a reception held in their honor by their children.

The actual anniversary was the day before, for Mr. and Mrs. Long were married on November 9, 1913, at the home of her father, Mr. J. W. Snell, in the Asbury Church community.

All eight of their children and most of their 25 grandchildren were present for the celebration to which friends and neighbors and members of churches served by them in the past were invited. The reception was held in the home Mr. and Mrs. Long built for their retirement close by the Christian Hill Church in Alabama.

As a part of the celebration Rev. and Mrs. Long repeated their marriage vows. Superintendent James H. Lightbourne Jr. was the officiating minister.

The home was decorated for the occasion, including a tremendous "wedding cake". Refreshments were served to the many guests who attended.

Rev. and Mrs. Long received a variety of gifts from churches formerly served and from friends and relatives.

A graduate of the old Atlanta Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., Mr. Long was ordained on February 3, 1919, at the Dorcas Church, Crestview, Florida.

During the more than 40 years of his ministry, Mr. and Mrs. Long have served the Dorcas Church, the Mountain Creek Parish, Mountain Creek, Ala., Seman Parish, Seman, Ala., Center Church, Atlanta, Ga., Hackleburg Parish, Hackleburg, Ala., Midland City Parish, Midland City, Alabama, United Church, Phenix City, Ala., Macedonia Parish, Braselton, Ga., Waycross Parish, Waycross, Ga., Andalusia Parish, Andalusia, Alabama, Todd Church, Shawmut, Ala., and United Church, Thorsby, Alabama.

The names and addresses of their children are: Charles U. Long, 4795 Circle Drive, Columbia, S. C.; Mrs. H. D. Davis, 606 Randolph St., Valdosta, Ga., N. A. Long Jr., Rt. 1, Waycross, Ga., Samuel H. Long, 551 Clairmont Circle, Apt. 7, Decatur, Ga., Neil Long, Rt. 1, Midland City, Ala., John Leon Long, Creole Petroleum Corp., Cabinas, Estado Zulia, Venezuela, S. A., Rev.

HERE AND THERE

Rev. and Mrs. Ariel Zambrano

Rev. and Mrs. Zambrano of Mexico are presently graduate students at Scarritt Biblical Institute, Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Zambrano is a member of the Congregational Church in Mexico. He is on a year's leave of absence from his duties as professor at the Union Theological Seminary in Mexico City.

Mrs. Sambrano is an erstwhile Methodist missionary in Mexico and has been very active in Christian education and camp work among the Congregational Churches.

They are available for weekend speaking engagements in nearby churches.

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Rev. Lowell A. Smoot

The News is happy to report that Mr. Smoot has recovered from his recent operation and is now at home and back about his parish duties.

* * * *

Rev. R. Hugh Lasseter

Rev. R. Hugh Lasseter has been called to be the pastor of Center Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., and began his work there the middle of November.

Mr. and Mrs. Lasseter have been living in Durham, N. C., while he attended Duke Divinity School and served a parish in Virginia.

They will make their home in Atlanta and he will continue his theological education at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, while serving Center Church.

* * * *

Rev. W. Walter Hall

The Rev. W. Walter Hall was installed as pastor of the Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, Ala., at services held on Sunday, November 17. Superintendent Lightbourne delivered the sermon. A reception was held at the church following the service.

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S. E. CONVENTION BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention will be held at 10:30 a. m., January 21, 1964, at the convention offices.

Herbert Long, 2051 Courtland Ave., Norwood, Ohio, Max Long, Rt. 1, Midland City, Ala.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
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